

OWLS Director Report

November 16, 2023 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

County Funding Updates

The Outagamie County budget passed on November 6th with library aids at 100% of the formula. The proposed Waupaca County Budget also includes 100% funding of our budget request. The final vote on the Waupaca budget is scheduled for November 14th.

Update on Director Searches

Little Chute's new director, Megan Kloeckner, started November 7th. Megan was previously the director at the Eager Free Library in Evansville in the Prairie Lakes Library System for 11 years. Sturm Memorial Library in Manawa has hired Sue Vater Olsen to fill the position vacated by Ellen Connor's upcoming retirement. Sue was previously the director at Scandinavia Public Library. In Scandinavia, Assistant Director Meredith Miller will step into the director role on November 14th.

Library Development & Legislation Report

Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. It's an off year for the budget, but we will likely have a lot to discuss with legislators regarding proposed legislation related to libraries. There are a number of proposals under discussion that focus on rating systems and parental notification. I am worked with a sub-committee of LD&L to develop a handout describing the tools and resources that libraries have in place to support parents' rights and responsibilities at the library. The handout was distributed at the WLA Conference in October and follows this report.

OWLS Board Departures

Three OWLS Trustees have decided to step down at the end of their terms on December 31st, Paul Girod, Marilyn Herman, and Marcia Trentlage. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all three for their service to OWLS and our member libraries. We will miss you all! In particular, Paul Girod deserves special recognition as the longest serving trustee in OWLS history, a feat unlikely to be equaled. Paul joined the OWLS Board in 1977.